Soviet display paint-smeared; ex-prisoner held

MONTREAL (CP) — A Toronto man was being detained by police yesterday after a monument in front of the Soviet pavilion at Expo 67 was smeared with paint.

Montreal police said the 47-year-old man, taken into custody minutes after the incident Saturday, was to remain in detention pending a decision by Soviet authorities about whether they should make a complaint against him.

The making of such a complaint was up to these officials, a police spokesman said. Their decision was not expected until today.

In the Saturday incident, a man was seen painting the monument, and ended up by pitching what paint he had left over the structure. Most of the paint was cleaned off by authorities later.

The man who did the painting was quoted by Expo authorities as saying he once was a prisoner in the Soviet Union.

As the paint was being splashed on, the Soviets inside the huge slope-roofed pavilion were staging events in honor of one of their country's member republics, Estonia.

The monument is designed as a salute to Soviet society and ideals.